

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Withdrawn): A nuclear transfer promoter for Rac protein comprising an isoprenoid synthesis inhibitor and/or a geranylgeranyl transferase inhibitor.
2. (Withdrawn): The nuclear transfer promoter for Rac protein according to claim 1, wherein the isoprenoid synthesis inhibitor is an HMG-CoA synthase inhibitor, an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, an AMPK activator or a farnesylpyrophosphoric acid synthase preparation.
3. (Withdrawn): The nuclear transfer promoter for Rac protein according to claim 2, wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is pitavastatin.
- 4-6. (Cancelled)
7. (Withdrawn): A method of promoting the transfer of Rac protein into a nucleus, which comprises administering an isoprenoid synthesis inhibitor and/or a geranylgeranyl transferase inhibitor to a cell.
8. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 7, wherein the isoprenoid synthesis inhibitor is an HMG-CoA synthase inhibitor, an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, an AMPK activator or a farnesylpyrophosphoric acid synthase preparation.

9. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 8, where in the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is pitavastatin.

10. (Withdrawn): A pharmaceutical composition for vascular treatment, comprising the nuclear transfer promoter for Rac protein according to any one of claims 1 to 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn): A therapeutic/prevention method for vascular disorders, which comprises administering the nuclear transfer promoter for Rac protein according to any one of claims 1 to 3 in an effective amount for therapy/prevention to a patient in need of therapy/ prevention of vascular disorders.

13. (Currently Amended): A method of screening for a substance which improves endothelial functions, comprising: a blood vessel remedy, which comprises

labelling an Rac protein in a HUVEC,

adding a test substance to said HUVEC, ~~a Rac protein-expressing cell~~ and

measuring the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC.

14. (Currently Amended): The screening method according to claim 13, wherein the labelled Rac protein is ~~in the form of~~ a fusion protein which includes ~~[[with]]~~ a fluorescent protein.

15. (Currently Amended): The screening method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus is measured by observation with fluorescence.

16. (New) The screening method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein said measuring of the transfer of the labelled Rac protein is performed 15 hours after said test substance is added to said HUVEC.

17. (New): A method of screening for a substance which promotes nuclear transfer of Rac protein, comprising:

labelling an Rac protein in a HUVEC,

adding a test substance to said HUVEC, and

measuring the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC.

18. (New): The screening method according to claim 16, wherein the labelled Rac protein is a fusion protein which includes a fluorescent protein.

19. (New): The screening method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus is measured by observation with fluorescence.

20. (New): The screening method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein said measuring of the transfer of the labelled Rac protein is performed 15 hours after said test substance is added to said HUVEC.